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2003 ANNUAL REPORT

— 1997 Minn. Laws Chap. 239
Art. 8 Sec. 8 Subd. 10

— Minn. Stat. 299A.64

MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE

Office of Ron Ryan - Statewide Commander

January 2004

In accordance with the by-laws of the Oversight Council, I, as the Statewide Commander, have been directed to report to you on a monthly basis and also to produce a yearly report on the operations and status of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force (MGSF). Please accept this report as my summary of the accomplishments of the MGSF, the status of gangs in the state of Minnesota, as well as the status and well being of the MGSF at the close of 2003.

You are well aware that following a very contentious 2003 Legislative Session, the funding for the Minnesota Gang Strike Force was virtually eliminated during a conference committee at 3:00 in the morning. I truly believe we were used as a form of leverage for other issues and when the session ended we had fallen between the cracks and had lost all money to pay for police officers working on crimes committed by gang members in the state of Minnesota.

Immediately following the end of the 2003 Legislative Session we started to receive calls from Legislators who expressed disgust and outrage over the decision to cut funding to our agency and several felt it was a means to destroy the Strike Force. Several of these same Legislators suggested our funding would be revisited in this upcoming 2004 Legislative Session and they would refund our successful enforcement efforts. If this does not occur the Minnesota Gang Strike Force will no longer exist as of June 30, 2004.

This past July, after the fiscal year ended and there was no money to reimburse local law enforcement agencies, several agencies withdrew their officers stating they could no longer afford to assign their officers at the MGSF. We were able to take advantage of the Metro Region's asset forfeiture funds and offer a flat rate of $20,000 per officer to the agencies that would choose to stay with us through the balance of the fiscal year. The money could be used for reimbursement costs which could go towards salary, overtime, vehicle expenses, or other expenses as departments saw fit. Please review the list of agencies that have remained.

As you review this report, you will quickly see our workload did not diminish. Even under very poor working conditions due to lack of funding, i.e. no buy funds, the need to use inferior vehicles for undercover operations, etc., our officers remained very productive. It is a credit to the hardworking, dedicated officers who are assigned to the

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MGSF that the productivity actually remained constant. You will see that the Gang Strike Force has continued to work towards achieving its stated mission objectives. You will also see the Metro Region numbers were reduced slightly, however, some of the regions in Greater Minnesota actually showed some increases in their arrests and convictions because of the ever growing numbers of gang members who are moving into rural areas of the state. Amazingly, even after the devastating cuts we have taken in our funding and manpower, our arrests and convictions involving gang members statewide has increased during 2003. As you review the examples of selected investigations at the end of this report, you will notice the increasing violence caused by gangs statewide, particularly gang related homicides. As we watch the increasing gang violence throughout the United States we can readily see it is starting to reach Minnesota.

As I sit and write this letter for my report today, the newspapers report the killing yesterday of the gang member who was the actual intended target the day a young, innocent victim, Tyesha Edwards was killed in Minneapolis during a gang shootout. These same papers today reported the arrest of two Surenos 13 gang members for the murder of a young man, this past year, who was shot early one morning as he showed up for work. The two gang members were charged with a murder and Crime for the Benefit of a Gang. They killed the young man because they heard he was a Latin King gang member and therefore, their rival.

I find some strange irony as I review these violent crimes while preparing this report. I find the Minnesota Gang Strike Force continues to average over 700 arrests a year of gang members engaged in criminal activity. We continue to track over 9,000 gang members and share that information with all law enforcement and continue to respond to calls for assistance throughout the state investigating these growing violent gang crimes. Yet, we face the real possibility of being put out of business next June because some of Minnesota's Legislators apparently did not see the need to fund our efforts.

It is my intention to work with the 2004 Legislature and get our operations back on track by having the Minnesota Gang Strike Force grants refunded. As members of the Criminal Gang Oversight Council, I would ask that you assist me in this endeavor. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ron Ryan
Statewide Commander, MGSF

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Year 2003 Roster of Regions, Listing Participating Agencies	2
Mission of Minnesota Gang Strike Force	3
2003 – Year Six Performance Statistics	4-5
The Minnesota Criminal Gang Pointer File	6 - 12
Number of Confirmed Gang Members	7
Number of Gang Names/Gang Definition	7 – 8
Gang Names, Race and/or Ethnicity	9 - 11
Gang Information Generated by Law Enforcement Inquiry	12
History of Minnesota Gang Strike Force/Oversight Council Members	13
Funding Information	14
Past MGSF Performance Evaluations	15
Minnesota Attorney General's Office Involvement/Councils of Color	16 - 19
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Involvement	20
Minnesota Department of Corrections Involvement	20
United States Attorney's Office Involvement	21
A Review of Some Selected Investigations by Region	22 - 31
Metro	22 – 25
Northeast	25 - 26
Southeast	26 - 28
Central	28 - 29
Southwest	29 - 31

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Minnesota Gang Strike Force – Website
http://www.dps.state.mn.us/strikeforce/

MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE ROSTER

Statewide Commander, Ron Ryan	651/917-4805 651/917-4813 Fax
Metro Regional Commander, Art Blakey Deputy Regional Commander, John Boulger (Ramsey and Dakota County Sheriff's, Minneapolis PD, St. Paul PD, Brooklyn Park PD, ATF, BCA, DEA, FBI)	651/917-4801 651/917-4802 651/917-4813 Fax
Northeast Regional Commander, Dan Chicos (Duluth PD, BCA)	218/723-3692 218/723-3445 Fax
Southeast Regional Commander, Casey Moilanen (Rochester PD, Goodhue County Sheriff)	507/287-1422 507/281-7354 Fax
Central Regional Commander, David LaBeaux (St. Cloud PD, Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns County Sheriff)	320/650-3888 320/650-3852 Fax
Southwest Regional Commander, Jody Gladis (Marshall PD, Worthington PD, Mankato PD)	507/537-6581 507/537-6034 Fax
Minnesota Attorney's General, MGSF Prosecutors (Deputy A.G. Hilary Caligiuri, and Assistant Attorney General Brent Wartner)	651/296-7033 651/297-4348 Fax
North Central Criminal Gang Board - Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard County Sheriffs, Bemidji P.D., Leach Lake DPS (Gang Activity Data Entry)	218/759-8130 218/755-9384 Fax
Minnesota Gang Pointer File (Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Julie Barrows)	651/523-7193 651/917-4813 Fax

MISSION OF MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE

The Minnesota Gang Strike Force was created to identify, investigate, arrest and prosecute gang members engaged in "criminal activity" in the state of Minnesota. The primary goals of the MGSF are:

1. Target for prosecution individuals who are most criminally active within a gang or who hold leadership positions. The key here is "criminal gang activity." The MGSF targets those who benefit from this gang activity, and does not target young people because of their physical appearance.

2. To coordinate proactive long-term investigations on targeted gang members.

3. To react promptly to requests for assistance from other law enforcement agencies.

4. To provide peace officers and prosecutors throughout the state of Minnesota with training on tactics and techniques for investigating and prosecuting gang crimes.

5. To obtain information and intelligence regarding gang membership and related criminal activity and share that information with other law enforcement agencies in the state.

6. To ensure that the community receives information about plans, activities and decisions of the Criminal Gang Oversight Council through regular meetings with the Indian Affairs Council, the Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People, the Council on Black Minnesotans and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, and to ensure that the position of the Councils on Gang Strike Force activities is then heard by the MGSF Oversight Council.

2003 – YEAR SIX PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

The Minnesota Gang Strike Force (MGSF) continues to be extremely productive in its sixth year of operation. The criminal activities that the Strike Force has successfully investigated include gang related homicides, aggravated assaults, drive by shootings, robberies, and criminal sexual assaults, all committed by gang members.

MGSF investigators have also been part of several successful multi-agency narcotic investigations because of their intelligence regarding drug gangs. These include investigations done with state drug task forces, federal organized crime task forces, as well as with local city and country law enforcement agencies. Examples of some of the different types of criminal activity successfully prosecuted in each of the MGSF regions will be highlighted at the end of this report.

The following is a look at performance statistics for the MGSF for the years 1998 through 2003.

Arrests:	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**
Northeast	107	209	150	144	174	235
Southeast	21	44	58	50	35	39
Metro	212	358	237	411	428	357
Central	55	78	128	91	157	175
Northwest*	30	51	NA	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	NA	27	56	79	66	70
Total	**425**	**660**	**629**	**775**	**860**	**876**

Convictions:	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**
Northeast	30	48	43	36	58	80
Southeast	--	25	3	7	22	35
Metro	70	148	77	124	137	106
Central	29	54	92	46	98	119
Northwest	--	10	NA	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	NA	13	39	40	50	33
Total	**129**	**298**	**254**	**253**	**365**	**373**

Pending Dispositions:	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**
Northeast	84	87	86	103
Southeast	29	46	26	19
Metro	79	262	269	127
Central	36	41	57	50
Northwest	NA	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	17	39	16	35
Total	**245**	**477**	**454**	**334**

*** Northwest Region withdrew from the MGSF in 2000.**

2003 – YEAR SIX PERFORMANCE STATISTICS cont.

Search Warrants:	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**
Northeast	42	34	42	40	47	36
Southeast	8	18	5	12	2	19
Metro	112	193	150	258	212	196
Central	32	25	52	28	47	42
Northwest*	32	19	NA	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	NA	4	5	18	17	10
Total	**226**	**293**	**254**	**358**	**325**	**303**

Firearms Seized:	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**
Northeast	57	14	4	32	33	27
Southeast	3	4	1	2	0	6
Metro	105	102	109	192	142	111
Central	21	4	8	3	4	5
Northwest	--	2	NA	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	NA	--	--	9	5	4
Total	**186**	**126**	**122**	**238**	**184**	**153**

* Northwest Region withdrew from the MGSF in 2000.

Controlled Substances Seized:	**2003**
Northeast	1 lbs. 14.8 ozs. marijuana, 4.7 ozs. methamphetamine, 12 grams heroin, 2.8 ozs. crack cocaine, 12.9 ozs. cocaine
Southeast	17 lbs. marijuana, 9 grams methamphetamine, 2.4 ozs. cocaine
Metro	296 lbs. marijuana, 11 lbs. methamphetamine, 1 lb. khat, 3 lbs. 5 ozs. crack cocaine, 54.1 ozs. cocaine, 9.9 grams ecstacy
Central	12.75 lbs. marijuana, 15.8 ozs. methamphetamine, 2.9 ozs. crack cocaine, 2.5 ozs. cocaine, 1.5 ozs. ecstacy
Southwest	5.4 ozs. marijuana, 2 lbs. 10 ozs. methamphetamine, 21.2 ozs. crack cocaine

NOTE: The seized controlled substances are the result of investigations of criminal activity involving narcotics that was taking place by confirmed gang members. Most often these narcotic investigations were a combined effort of several law enforcement agencies working on a targeted gang's criminal activity. For example, most long-term investigations were the results of Title III wiretaps and surveillance done with local drug task forces and with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) task forces. These investigations involve gangs in the state of Minnesota or gangs that are bringing their criminal activity into the state from other areas. Narcotic investigation in not the major emphasis of the MGSF as shown by the breakdown of crimes investigated by each Region on pages of this report.

THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE

As part of its' original anti-gang initiative, the 1997 legislature directed that a statewide computer system be developed that could track gangs and the number of ***"confirmed gang members"*** in the state of Minnesota. This system, the Pointer File, has been a useful tool for law enforcement, officer safety, and the judiciary.

The BCA was originally given the task of creating the statewide system that is now currently operating out of the Metro region office in St. Paul. Julie Barrows, a Criminal Intelligence Analyst who is a BCA employee assigned to the MGSF, is responsible for this operation.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 299C.091, subd.2, a law enforcement agency may submit data on an individual to the criminal gang investigative data system, the Pointer File, only if the agency obtains and maintains the following documentation:

a. That the individual is 14 years of age or older;
b. That the individual has been convicted of a gross misdemeanor or felony or has been adjudicated or has a stayed adjudication as a juvenile for an offense that would be a gross misdemeanor or felony if committed by an adult; and
c. That the individual has met at least three of the criteria or identifying characteristics of gang membership developed by the Criminal Gang Oversight Council.

The ten-point criteria developed by the Criminal Gang Oversight Council includes:

1. Admits gang membership or association.
2. Is observed to associate on a regular basis with known gang members.
3. Has tattoos indicating gang membership.
4. Wears gang symbols to identify with a specific gang.
5. Is in a photograph with known gang members and/or using gang-related hand signs.
6. Name is on a gang document, hit list, or gang related graffiti.
7. Is identified as a gang member by a reliable source.
8. Arrested in the company of identified gang members or associates.
9. Corresponds with known gang members or writes and/or receives correspondence about gang activities.
10. Writes about gang (graffiti) on walls, books and paper.

In an effort to maintain the success of the Pointer File we regularly audit the information it contains. We check on accuracy of information and also to see that gang members who have not had contact with the police, in the past three years, are purged from the file.

Two audits were conducted during the year 2003. Several agencies were contacted regarding their documentation on file by doing a random sample of confirmed gang members. Ten percent, or a minimum of two gang member files, whichever was greater, were randomly selected from the agency's total number of entries in the year 2003. A letter explaining the audit process and an affidavit was sent to the out state regional

THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE cont.

commanders. The commanders then reviewed their selected files for accuracy and completeness, signed the affidavit and returned it to the analyst at the MGSF. The analyst at the MGSF reviewed the selected files at DOC and the Metro region.

The results of the audit were very encouraging. Out of 40 files audited during the two audits conducted during 2003, all 40 had the necessary documentation. This is a 100% success rate! The results show that the Pointer File helps the MGSF succeed in one of its missions: to obtain important valid information and intelligence regarding gang membership and related criminal activity and share that information with other law enforcement agencies.

Currently, there are **2,467 "confirmed gang members"** that have been entered into the Pointer File from throughout the state of Minnesota. The following is a statistical breakdown **as of December 31, 2003**:

Race			**Gender**		
Asian	168	(6.8%)	Male	2,432	(98.6%)
Black	1,417	(57.4%)	Female	35	(1.4%)
Indian	172	(7.0%)			
White	683	(27.7%)			
Unknown	27	(1.1%)			

Top 5 Gangs / Membership

Gangster Disciples	556
Vice Lords	196
White Power	120
Latin Kings	109
Rolling 60s Crips	85

NOTE:
There has been a steady increase of confirmed gang members that have been entered into the Pointer File since we started, even after the file is regularly purged. The following breakdown by race illustrates that the increase, however, is fairly consistent across all racial groups.

1999		**2000**		**2001**	
Asian 67	(7.29%)	Asian 77	(6.86%)	Asian 83	(6.16%)
Black 536	(58.32%)	Black 672	(59.89%)	Black 800	(59.35%)
Indian 49	(5.33%)	Indian 67	(5.97%)	Indian 81	(6.0%)
White 265	(28.84%)	White 302	(26.92%)	White 379	(28.12%)
Unknown 2	(0.22%)	Unknown 4	(0.36%)	Unknown 5	(0.37%)
Total 919		Total 1,122		Total 1,348	

THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE cont.

2002		2003	
Asian	144 (6.1%)	Asian	168 (6.8%)
Black	1,384 (58.6%)	Black	1,417 (57.4%)
Indian	151 (6.4%)	Indian	172 (7.0%)
White	669 (28.4%)	White	683 (27.7%)
Unknown	12 (0.5%)	Unknown	27 (1.1%)
Total	2,360	Total	2,467

Total Number of Gang Names in the Gang Pointer File: 165
Using the criteria that has been previously discussed, it has been determined that at the end of **2003** there were **165** gangs that have been identified in the State of Minnesota that have, as members, at least one **"confirmed gang member"**. The list that has been developed indicates the number of confirmed gang members in each gang as well as an indication of the race and/or ethnicity makeup of each gang.

Gang Definition
A gang is defined by Minnesota Statute.609.229 as:

1. An ongoing organization, association or group.
2. Including three or more persons.
3. Having a common name or common identifying symbol.
4. One of the primary activities of the gang is to commit crimes under Minn. Stat. 609.11 sub 9 (violent felony type crimes).
5. Includes members who individually or collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity.

Obviously the numbers of confirmed gang members listed in the Gang Pointer File are not the total number of gang members living or operating in the state of Minnesota. Intelligence shows that there are many more gang members involved in criminal activity here. These are, however, the numbers generated to date using the model that was established in 1997 to keep track of and identify "confirmed gang members" in the state.

The following three pages is the list of gangs in the Pointer File and the location of the agency that entered the information into the system.

Minnesota Gang Strike Force

January 1, 2004

#	Gang Name	Race	Metro	Bemidji	Clay Co	Crookston	Duluth	Olmsted	Rice	St Cloud	Willmar
2	18th Street Gang	W	2								
1	210 Thugs	W	1								
4	26 Gangster Disciples	B	4								
12	4 Corner Hustlers	B	10				1			1	
2	5 Percenters	B	2								
1	510 Mossy Clique	W	1								
3	52 Broadway Crips	B	3								
2	603 Crips	B	2								
6	612 Hardcore (Hmong)	A	6								
1	915 (Hmong)	A	1								
1	ABK (Hmong)	A	1								
1	ACK (Hmong)	A	1								
19	Almighty Vice Lords	B	18							1	
7	Aryan Brotherhood	W	6							1	
1	Aryan Family	W	1								
3	Asian Blood (Hmong)	A	3								
1	Asian Crip Girls (Hmong)	A	1								
9	Asian Crips (Hmong)	A	7							2	
2	Asian Love (Hmong)	A	2								
1	Asian Posse (Hmong)	A	1								
4	Asian Pride (Hmong)	A	4								
2	Baby Gangster Crips (Cambodian)	A	2								
1	BL-38 Aquitas	H	1								
19	Black Disciples	B	15							4	
14	Black Gangsters	B	8	1	1		4				
91	Black P Stones	B	74				7	2		8	
1	Black Souls	B	1								
1	Blood Stone Villians	W	1								
33	Bloods	M	24				2	5		2	
15	Bogus Boys Crew	B	15								
1	Bot Mob	I		1							
14	Brown For Life	H	13			1					
1	BPM (Motorcycle)	W					1				
3	Cobras (Hmong)	A	3								
37	Conservative Vice Lords	B	32				4			1	
10	Crazy Ass Gangsters	B	10								
3	Crazy Bloods (Hmong)	A	3								
1	Crazy Brother Clan	A	1								
1	Cretin Street Gang	W	1								
82	Crips	B	74		1		3	3		1	
2	Death Warriors	I	2								
24	Detroit Boys	B	24								
1	East Side Bloods (Cambodian)	A	1								
11	East Side GS	W	11								
1	East Side Phoenix Crips	W			1						
4	El Forastero (Motorcycle)	W	3				1				
1	El Rukn	B	1								
27	Family Mob	B	27								
1	Fresno Bulldogs	H							1		
632	Gangster Disciples	M	545	1			40	28		18	
6	GLOC (Hmong)	A	6								
1	Hang Out Boys	H	1								
13	Hell's Angels (Motorcycle)	W	11				1	1			
11	Hell's Outcasts (Motorcycle)	W	11								
7	Hill Top Hustlers	B	7								
1	Hmong Nation Society	A	1								
4	Hoover Deuce Crips	M	1		3						
4	Hound Boss Players	W	1							3	

Minnesota Gang Strike Force

January 1, 2004

#	Gang Name	Race	Metro	Bemidji	Clay Co	Crookston	Duluth	Olmsted	Rice	St Cloud	Willmar
1	Hustler Crips	M			1						
5	Immortal Bloods (Hmong)	A	5								
10	Imperial Gangster Disciples	M	9				1				
1	Insane Deuce	M					1				
1	Insane Gangster Disciples	M	1								
4	Insane Spanish Cobras	M	4								
31	Insane Vice Lords	B	19				10			2	
3	Klu Klux Klan (Racist)	W	3								
1	Lao Bloods	A	1								
9	Lao Boyz	A	8							1	
2	Latin Counts	H	2								
3	Latin Gangster Disciples	H	3								
134	Latin Kings	H	110				8	2		3	11
1	Latin Lover	H	1								
3	Latin Queens	H	3								
3	LG (Hmong)	A	3								
2	Los Quientas Locas	H	1					1			
2	Los Valientes (Motorcycle)	W	2								
15	Lower Town Thugs	B	15								
3	M&M (Hmong)	A	3								
2	Mafia Insance Vice Lords	M	1				1				
1	Mafia Pride (Hmong)	A	1								
3	Maniac Latin Disciples	H	3								
1	Mara Salvatrucha	H	1								
11	Master Players	W	2					9			
7	Masters of Destruction (Hmong)	A	7								
51	Mickey Cobra Stones	B	37				2			12	
1	Minneapolis Boys (Vietnamese)	A	1								
1	Montebello Park Crips	W	1								
1	National Socialist Mvmt	W								1	
16	Native Gangster Disciples	I	16								
29	Native Mob	I	28				1				
1	Native Rose	I					1				
1	Native Style	I	1								
23	Native Vice Lords	I	18				5				
1	Natoma Boyz (Vietnamese)	A	1								
17	Nike Mob	B	17								
1	No Limit Boys (Vietnamese)	A	1								
2	Nortenos	H	1						1		
1	Northern Hammer Skins	W	1								
1	Notorious Dirty Bird Crew	W	1								
11	OMB (Hmong)	A	11								
2	Orchestra Albany	H	2								
5	Oriental Ruthless Boys (Hmong)	A	5								
1	Oriental Blood Sisters (Hmong)	A	1								
1	Original Baby Gangsters	A	1								
1	Original Crip Disciples (Hmong)	A								1	
5	Peckerwoods (Racist)	W	5								
3	Piru Bloods (Cambodian)	A	2							1	
2	Pocos Pero Locos	H	2								
3	Posse (Hmong)	A	3								
66	Prison Motorcycle Brthrhd	W	66								
1	Project Boyz	I	1								
1	Puppy Pound Click	W	1								
9	Purple Brothers (Hmong)	A	9								
1	RAB (Hmong)	A	1								
6	Raymond Ave Crips	B	6								
1	Real Crip Gangsters (Hmong)	A	1								

Minnesota Gang Strike Force

January 1, 2004

#	Gang Name	Race	Metro	Bemidji	Clay Co	Crookston	Duluth	Olmsted	Rice	St Cloud	Willmar
1	Red Blood Dragons (Cambodian)	A	1								
10	Red Cambodian Bloods	A						10			
1	Red Soldier Bloods	A	1								
1	Renegade Vice Lords	I		1							
1	Rice Street Gang	W	1								
1	Rollin 20's Crips	B								1	
2	Rollin 30's Crips	B	2								
20	Rollin 30's Bloods	B	20								
87	Rollin 60's Crips	B	85				1			1	
13	Rollin 90's Crips	B	13								
10	Royal Cambodian Bloods	A	9					1			
1	Ruthless Ass Gangsters	B	1								
1	Ruthless Indian Players	I	1								
2	Satan's Disciples	H	2								
3	Selby Sider	B	3								
54	Shotgun Crips	B	54								
1	Sisters of the Struggle	B	1								
6	Six Mob Gangsters	B	6								
26	Skinheads (Racist)	W	23				1			2	
1	Skyline Piru Bloods (Cambodian)	A			1						
1	Sons of Samoan	PI	1								
10	Sons of Silence (Motorcycle)	W	4					6			
1	Southside Sur 13	H			1						
2	Sovereign	W	2								
1	St Paul Gangsters	B	1								
1	Strictly Performance	A	1								
23	Surenos 13	H	22					1			
1	TAB (Hmong)	A	1								
1	Texas Chicano Brthrhd	H	1								
4	Thunderbirds Outlaw Motorcycle	W	1				3				
12	Tiny Man Crew (Hmong)	A	12								
4	Traveling Vice Lords	B	4								
3	Tre Duece Clique	B	3								
4	TRG (Cambodian)	A	4								
1	Tri-City Bombers	H	1								
1	True Crazy Kings	B	1								
2	Tyson Mob	B	2								
8	Unknown Vice Lords	B	7				1				
1	Varrio Fallbrook Locas	H	1								
6	Vatos Locos	H	6								
251	Vice Lords	B	196	2			31	12		10	
1	Vietnamese Crazy Boyz	A	1								
3	Villa Lobos	W	1		2						
10	West Side Crips	M									10
134	White Power (Racist)	W	120				11	3			
	White Pride (Racist)	W	1								
18	White Supremacists (Racist)	W	18								
5	White Tiger (Hmong)	A	5								
2	Young Thugs	B	2								
2442	**Total Gang Members**		**2099**	**6**	**11**	**1**	**142**	**84**	**2**	**77**	**21**
165	**Total Gangs**										

THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE cont.

Gang Pointer File Information Generated by Law Enforcement Inquiry
As law enforcement officers make routine traffic stops around the state, they will automatically be notified if they run a check on a "confirmed gang member" that is currently in the Gang Pointer File. This information is not only an officer safety warning but it also assists the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in tracking the movement of these "confirmed gang members" around the state. It is an interesting fact that during the year **2003** there were **16,561** hits indicating a confirmed gang member had contact with a law enforcement officer somewhere in the state of Minnesota. However, the total number of gang members in the system is only at **2,467 confirmed gang members**. It is obvious these gang members are very mobile as they are involved in the criminal activity throughout the state of Minnesota.

As an officer in the field runs a check of an individual who is listed as a confirmed gang member in the Pointer File, he or she will receive, as an example, the following information:

009522 BCJ324 FEB 02 2003 08:52:57 FEB 02 2003 08:53:17
****** WARNING – MINNESOTA CONFIRMED CRIMINAL GANG MEMBER ******
THIS INFORMATION ALONE DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE DETENTION, SEARCH OR ARREST OF ANY INDIVIDUAL OR THE SEARCH OF ANY VEHICLE OR DWELLING
SCR/100. ORI/MNO621800. NAM/XXXXX CHARLES LAMONT. MIN/41943
DOB/19770210. SEX/M. RAC/B. HGT/600. WGT/212. EYE/BRO. HAI/BLK. DOE/20000926.
MNK/MONSTER. FBI/298864AB5.
OCA/MGSFMETRO. EOR/1,2,8.
CVS/FE. SID/MN95013413.
GNG/FAMILY MOB. SGP/NON KNOWN.
POC/MGSF METRO 651-917-4800. 19981124.
MIS/CONFIRMED CRIMINAL GANG MEMBER CONVICTED OF NARCOTICS 2 AND WEAPON VIOLATION REMOVAL SERIAL NUMBER, USE CAUTION.

When the officer runs a check, it then generates the following information back to the Metro region indicating where and when the gang member was stopped and which agency was involved in the stop:

TO: GSF-01592 Tue FEB 02, 2003 08:52:57 CZQDOLZMKRJ8
FROM: QDRQDW Tue FEB 02, 2003 08:53:17
MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE NOTIFICAITON OF INQUIRY
*
THE FOLLOWING GANG MEMBER YOUR AGENCY ENTERED INTO THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE HAS BEEN INQUIRED UPON
*
NAM/LAMONT< CHARLES DOB/19770210 MIN/109863.
INQUIRED UPON BY ORI/MN00200C1
*
YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS NOTIFICATION BECAUSE UPON ENTRY OF THE ABOVE INDIVIDUAL. THE NOA (NOTIFY OF ALL HITS) INDICATOR WAS TURNED ON. MARKED "Y".

HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE

In 1997, the Legislature originally funded a two-year multi-agency anti-gang initiative. The 2000 Legislature again refunded this initiative for another 18 months. Then in 2001, the Legislature funded the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in order to continue its anti-gang program through the 2002-2003 fiscal years. Also in 2001, a base was created in the state budget in order to fund the program into the 2004-2005 fiscal years. The 2003 Legislature, however, removed the funding to pay grants for local law enforcement officers assigned to the MGSF. **Currently the state pays no money towards law enforcement officers assigned to the MGSF, working on the criminal activity caused by gang members.**

The original law also created an advisory council that was in charge of creating a statewide law enforcement strike force to deal with the increasing violence that gang crimes were inflicting on the citizens of Minnesota. That advisory group was named the Criminal Gang Oversight Council.

The Council currently includes the following members and their designees:

Public Safety Commissioner – Rich Stanek
Commissioner of Corrections – Joan Fabian
Superintendent of the BCA – Michael Campion
Minnesota Attorney General – Mike Hatch
Ramsey County Sheriff – Bob Fletcher (Chairman)
Chief of Police of the St. Paul Police Department – William Finney
Chief of Police of the Minneapolis Police Department – Robert Olson
A Representative of the MN Sheriff's Assn. (metro) – Don Gudmundson (Dakota County)
A Representative of the MN Sheriff's Assn. (outstate) – Jim McMahon (Benton County) (Assistant Chair)
St. Cloud Police Chief – Dennis Ballantine
Duluth Police Chief – Roger Waller
St. Louis County Sheriff – Ross Litman
Olmsted County Sheriff – Steve Borchardt
A Representative of the MN Chief's of Police Assn. – Gary Smith (Northfield)
Hennepin County Sheriff – Pat McGowan

The Criminal Gang Oversight Council is the administrative body that ultimately directs the Minnesota Gang Strike Force. The Council selected Ron Ryan, a St. Paul Police Commander, to be the Statewide Commander. Six separate regions were originally created covering the state with investigators concentrating on fighting gang-related crime. There were originally 70 employees assigned to the MGSF throughout the state. The largest group was the Metro region that employed 40 people.

Currently there are five regions in the state and since the funding was lost to pay for officers, our numbers have been reduced to 32 officers assigned throughout the state. There are 18 officers assigned to the Metro Region.

FUNDING INFORMATION

Originally an agency was eligible for up to 75% reimbursement of an officer's salary and benefits for a maximum of four officers. Additional officers may be part of the Strike Force, however, reimbursement would be for overtime costs only, not to exceed $8,400 annually per officer.

Local agencies originally had to hire other officers to replace the officers assigned to the Strike Force and agree to a two-year commitment to the project.

Some local agencies, not members of the MGSF, were awarded grants for expanding local capacity for investigating gang activity. These were awarded after the agencies submitted a detailed plan to the Oversight Council.

Originally, in order to create a region within the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, at least three separate agencies had to band together in forming a partnership region. This requirement has been eliminated because we have lost so many officers.

The legislature originally allotted $6.5 million for startup of the two-year program. $5,449,000 was the amount budgeted for operating the MGSF for 1998 and 1999. The remaining monies were for startup costs, grants for expanding local capacity, and establishing a computerized statewide system of "confirmed gang members", the Criminal Gang Pointer File.

During the 2001 Legislative session, the operating budget for the MGSF was reduced to **$4,690,000**. Therefore, agencies contributing reimbursement officers received noticeably less grant money for fiscal years 2002-2003. **NOTE:** During the 2002 legislative session, we were cut $1,660,000, then again on January 15, 2003, another $39,000 was cut from the MGSF budget. Following those cuts the Oversight Council determined the MGSF needed the $4,690,000 funding reinstated in order to support the grants to local law enforcement at the current level for fiscal years 2004-2005. Instead, the 2003 Legislature cut the **$3,000,000** left in the base budget, thereby eliminating all money available to pay for police officers. Several departments were forced to withdraw from the MGSF. The agencies who stayed are being paid a flat rate of $20,000 per officer for their involvement. This money comes from the Metro Region forfeiture accounts. It is our hope to work with the 2004 Legislature and attempt to restore funding before we have to shut down our operations completely, on June 30, 2004.

NOTE: Agencies who received grants to assign officers to their regional strike forces also remained financially involved in the day-to-day operations. For example, each officer arrives with his/her basic law enforcement tools. If an officer, who is a reimbursement officer, works overtime he or she was paid by their home agency. Fuel for the vehicles is also paid for by the local agencies. Some of the larger departments are able to contribute more. For example, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department has been giving computer system support, upgrading and repairing of equipment. The St. Paul Police Department has contributed an extra-unmarked squad that is used during street level operations. Smaller communities, such as Marshall, who find it difficult to pay the required support of the investigators assigned, actually accept money from neighboring communities so they could have an active MGSF investigator working on gang crimes in their area.

These examples show that Minnesota's strategy to combat the criminal activities caused by gangs is truly a collaborative effort by law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Minnesota.

PAST MGSF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

Operational Program Review November 1999
(This independent audit was requested by the Oversight Council and was conducted by Criminal Justice Services.)

- The establishment of the MGSF can be compared to starting a moderate sized police department from scratch. A complex undertaking. Currently operating in a more than adequate fashion.

- The MGSF mission assumes a broad role: investigative efforts range from homicides and other violent crimes, to property crimes and drug offenses. Approximately 20% caseload involves drug cases and a substantial majority of those have gang involvement.

- Conducted a Drug Task Survey Questionnaire to guide and assist Oversight Council in their policy and review of MGSF. Because there is a wide range of local, state and federal officers assigned the potential for any conflict or duplication is minimized.

Legislative Auditor Financial Audit July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2001

- No findings of problems or irregularities.

Quality Assurance Audit/Assessment Report March 2002
(This independent audit was requested by the Oversight Council and conducted by the Minneapolis Police Department Quality Assurance Unit.)

- Found to be operating in a very efficient and effective manner.

Administration Review of Local Grants May 2002
(This was conducted by staff from the Office of Drug Policy.)

- Overall well managed.

Numerous thank you letters acknowledging successful investigations completed by MGSF investigators

- These letters submitted by police chiefs and/or local law enforcement officials who requested help dealing with gang crimes. (Detailed information available upon request.)

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT

In the year 2003, Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch has continued to show his commitment to gang investigation and prosecution by committing additional resources to the Minnesota Gang Strike Force. Instead of the one assistant attorney general required by statute to advise the MGSF, he has, for the past three years, assigned three prosecutors to work with and advise the Strike Force officers.

Our attorneys from the A.G.s office have had an on-site office at the Strike Force Metro regional office where they worked with and advised the Strike Force officers. We closed this office during 2003 after we lost our funding. When the 2003 Legislature cut the funding to pay law enforcement officers assigned to the MGSF, Attorney General Mike Hatch contributed $135,000 from the MN Attorney General's forfeiture funds. These dollars assisted the MGSF by providing operating funds to help us stay in business until we can visit with the 2004 Legislature.

Prosecutions

Over the course of the past year, the three prosecutors assigned to the MGSF have worked on gang cases in eight counties – Cass, Clay, Hennepin, Redwood, Rice, St. Louis, Todd, and Wright. All of these cases have involved MGSF investigators. The three prosecutors handled the following cases in 2003:

- A three-defendant narcotics distribution case involving Gangster Disciples originally from Indiana and Chicago whom operated out of the Duluth area (St. Louis County) and later in Wright County.

- A five-defendant drug homicide case involving a retaliation shooting between members of the Gangster Disciples. The five defendants were indicted on murder in the first degree and conspiracy (Clay County).

- A three-defendant gang homicide case involving a retaliation shooting/murder between members of the Native Mob and Native Gangster Disciples in July 2003. A fight erupted at a house party located in the City of Redwood Falls between these two gangs after gang hand signs were flashed. After the hand signs were flashed an argument ensured and resulted in the shooting death of one person and the critical injury of another (Redwood County).

- A two-defendant attempted gang murder case involving retaliation shooting between members of Minneapolis Surenos and Northfield Latin Locos Surenos at a trailer park in Northfield, MN. On a Saturday evening in May 2003, a party at the trailer park erupted into a fight between these two gangs. Two members of the Minneapolis Surenos pulled out a short barreled shotgun and shot a non-gang member in the back. Immediate medical attention prevented his death.

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT cont.

- A two-defendant murder in the third degree and criminal sexual conduct case involved associates of the Native Gangster Disciples in Cass Lake, MN. Although not directly gang related, this drug case resulted in the overdose death of a 15-year old girl who obtained her narcotics from drug dealers who associated with Native Gangster Disciples.

- A two-defendant triple-homicide case that involved an identified member of the Gangster Disciples. This case occurred in Long Prairie, MN. A Gangster Disciple and his associate burglarized a family home in Long Prairie and murdered the family (a mother, and two teenage children) who occupied the dwelling at the time of the burglary.

- A Vice Lord gang member and drug dealer was convicted of possession of firearm by a felon in Minneapolis after a concerned citizen contacted police and agreed to testify against the defendant (Hennepin County).

Investigations

Over the course of the past year, the three prosecutors assigned to the MGSF have worked on gang investigation in three counties – Cass, Ramsey, and Mower. All of these investigations have involved MGSF investigators. The three prosecutors handled the following investigations in 2003:

- Juvenile Drug Overdose (Cass County). We have worked closely with the Cass County Attorney's Office to review the death of a 15-year old Native American girl as a result of a drug overdose. The case involves Native American Gangster Disciples.

- Wisconsin / Twin Cities Child Prostitution Investigation (Ramsey / Hennepin County). Worked with investigator Navara on a child prostitution investigation involving juvenile girls from Wisconsin who were prostituting in the Twin Cities for drugs. The investigation involved alleged Asian gang members.

- White Supremacist Drug Distribution Investigation (Mower County). Patrick Flanagan, an Assistant County Attorney with the Mower County Attorney's Office contacted Pete and Hilary for assistance in a White Supremacist drug distribution investigation that is being conducted in Austin by local law enforcement. A White Supremacist gang out of Riverside, CA called IE (Peckerwoods) has been recruiting local juveniles in Austin, MN, for the purpose of trading narcotics for firearms. The firearms are transported back to CA for sale.

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT cont.

Training and Community Awareness
Internally, the MGSF prosecutors participate in in-service training for the Strike Force officers, and prepared case law updates, as well as legal memoranda on specific issues raised by particular officers.

As part of our statutory mission to provide training to law enforcement and community groups around the state, the MGSF prosecutors also made at least 10 presentations on gang investigation, identification and prosecution to a variety of different groups.

Special Projects
In addition to handling prosecutions, the Attorney General's Office assists the MGSF on other matters such as:

- Data Practices Requests. They work closely with MGSF regarding advice on data practices requests. Also, they respond to subpoenas duces tecum, to protect the confidentiality of the private data contained in MGSF gang investigation files.

- MGSF Forfeitures. AG Attorneys work closely with MGSF investigators regarding advice on criminal forfeitures and handle all the court proceedings relating to the forfeiture of items lawfully seized in a criminal investigation. Assistant Attorney General Jim Early handles all the Metro region forfeitures exclusively.

- Legislation. They work closely with MGSF on proposed gang legislation and currently are working on three proposals; solicitation of juvenile to join a gang, building fortifications, and hidden compartments.

Legal Advice
Deputy Attorney General Hilary Lindell Caligiuri is the legal council to the Minnesota Criminal Gang Oversight Council. In that capacity, Hilary attends Oversight Council meetings and gives legal advice to the council as needed.

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT/ COUNCILS OF COLOR

Community Liaison

Another part of the MGSF mission is to ensure the community receives information about plans, activities, and decisions of the MGSF. Deputy Attorney General Hilary Lindell Caligiuri has served as a liaison between the Strike Force and the Councils of Color, which include the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, the Council on Black Minnesotans, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, and the Indian Affairs Council. Hilary schedules regular meetings with the Councils of Color, which are attended by Regional Commanders and staff from the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

Major issues that have been addressed by the Councils of Color include:

- What is a "confirmed gang member"? The ten point criteria were explained as well as explaining that our law enforcement efforts were geared to "criminal activity" not physical appearances of people.
- Racial statistics for persons entered in the Statewide Computer System.
- Identifying Gang Strike Force Members, it was agreed that all members would carry MGSF ID cards and wear distinctive maroon and gold raid jackets during operations.
- The Minnesota Gang Strike Force has also met with representatives of the various Councils, through out the state, when special issues arise. These are meetings outside the framework of the quarterly meetings.

MINNESOTA BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION

BCA Superintendent Michael Campion remains very supportive of the efforts and the mission of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in this, our sixth year of operation.

The BCA originally developed the program for the Minnesota Gang Pointer File, the system that tracks confirmed gang members in the state of Minnesota, and continues to physically house the computer system that provides this important information to law enforcement officers and prosecutors through out the state. The Gang Pointer File also continues to be an excellent officer safety tool for street officers, throughout the state, as they make daily traffic stops.

The Superintendent currently has three agents assigned to MGSF regions throughout the state who work as investigators with local MGSF investigators. Senior Special Agent John Boulger, who is the Metro Region, Deputy Commander acts as the liaison for our contacts with all the federal agencies that the Minnesota Gang Strike Force works with. Agent Boulger has also been working closely with the US Attorneys Office during 2003 providing information and training that they have requested regarding Native American gangs in the state.

The MGSF also uses the BCA crime lab for storage and the processing of drug evidence. The lab has also assisted the MGSF in firearm identification this past year during several of our investigations.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Commissioner of Corrections, Joan Fabian, and her organization have also been supportive of the efforts of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, particularly in the area of intelligence gathering of gang members incarcerated in Minnesota Correctional Institutions.

Earlier in the year, the MGSF spent monies from our forfeiture funds to help upgrade the DOC phone monitoring systems throughout their system. In exchange we have been able to develop information for our own intelligence network as well as information that has helped in several successful investigations.

Currently, DOC investigators and the MGSF are working together on a Project Safe Neighborhood program with the US Attorney's Office. The project deals with the increase of violence caused by emerging Native American gangs in the state.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT

The US Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, under the leadership of Thomas Heffelfinger, has been very helpful and committed to working with the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in helping to address violent gang crimes.

The MGSF and the Federal Bureau of Investigation continue efforts to locate Hopeton Brown. Brown is on the FBI's ten most wanted list. "America's Most Wanted" featured Brown, a gang member, who killed a St. Paul man and left his girlfriend for dead as part of a drug conspiracy. In 1999 he was indicted by a federal grand jury with two other codefendants for drug conspiracy, carrying a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime, murder in relation to a drug trafficking crime, attempted murder of a witness. This was a "cold case" homicide adopted by the MGSF. Once adopted, the case was assigned to two lead investigators at the Strike Force, both veteran investigators; one from the St. Paul Police Department and the other from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The two worked on the case for over two years before they brought it to a successful conclusion.

The MGSF has been involved in the ongoing investigation of the Minnesota Chapter of the Hell's Angel motorcycle gang which started in 2002. Our investigators worked with the BCA, IRS, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office as well as local law enforcement agencies on the investigation. To date, there have been 26 defendants convicted of various crimes related to drug trafficking. More indictments are expected. The sentences range from 12 months to 264 months (22 years). The total amount of times in sentences is 2,012 months (167.6 years). The average sentence of defendants has been 77.3 months (6.4 years).

MGSF investigators have worked closely with the US Attorney's Office during 2003 on some of their "weed and seed" initiatives. These are federally funded programs that are set up to reduce crime in particular areas. "Project Safe Neighborhood" is one such program where the MGSF received a $30,000 grant to provide training and intelligence regarding Native American gangs. Much of this training is being provided to law enforcement in northern Minnesota near or around several Indian Reservations. Project Safe Neighborhood is designed to reduce gun violence in these areas and to deal with the dramatic increase in Native American gangs in the state that has in turn created increased violence in their communities.

Along with major investigations, the Metro region of the MGSF has also partnered with the U.S. Attorney's Office in some crime prevention projects. One example is the their past partnership in producing a CD titled Student Pledge Against Gun Violence. The CD was sent to 750 public and private schools in the area and has been used at a large rally at the Target Center. It is part of the annual "Day of National Concern". On this day, students talk about gun violence and organize pledge rallies where students sign pledges against gun violence.

The US Attorney's Office has prosecuted several cases in federal court for the MGSF during the year 2003. Some of these cases will be highlighted at the end of this report, under the review of selected investigations, where local regional investigators collaborated with the various federal agencies during the successful investigations of the crimes committed by gang members.

A REVIEW OF SOME SELECTED 2003 INVESTIGATIONS BY REGION

The following are selected summaries of completed investigations. It is not meant to be a complete list of MGSF investigations; these are examples from each of the regions as to the types of investigations and types of illegal activities being committed by the different criminal gangs in their areas.

Metro Region

Homicide

In late December of 2002 a homicide took place during a robbery of a small grocery store in South St. Paul. The clerk appeared to have been killed execution style before the robbers left. Two Metro Region investigators started developing valuable suspect information independent of each other just a few hours after the brutal murder occurred.

Metro investigators were able to develop information very quickly because at least one of the suspects was a Vice Lord gang member they had been working on. In the weeks that followed they worked with informants and conducted many hours of surveillance and made purchases of guns from the suspect in hopes of finding the murder weapon. This was followed by several search warrants that developed more witnesses.

During this same timeframe Metro investigators also assisted the Minneapolis P.D. with a homicide at another grocery store in Northeast Minneapolis. The suspect was a Rolling 60's Crip gang member known to our investigation. During the arrest of the Minneapolis homicide suspect they developed more information on the South St. Paul homicide.

During the remainder of 2003 Metro investigators have continued to work on developing information on this homicide for the South St. Paul P.D. They determined one of the suspects left the state against the terms of his probation. They actually traveled to Peoria, IL, and located him and returned him to Minnesota to complete his prison sentence. The other suspect is also incarcerated on another unrelated matter. This has been a long involved homicide investigation the type of investigation the MGSF was set up to handle. In February of 2004 the information these investigators have developed will be presented to a Grand Jury that should result in a murder indictment against these gang members for the killing of the South St. Paul store clerk.

Homicide

On the morning of April 15th, 2003, Metro investigators were in the area of North Minneapolis looking for a vehicle and suspects of a gang related shooting from the previous evening. It had been part of an ongoing feud of the PBs (Purple Brothers) and rival OMB (Oroville Mono Boyz) gang members.

While in the area they ran in on a call with Minneapolis Police after two young Asian males were shot at a bus stop while waiting for a school bus. The one victim was shot twice and died at the scene. Our investigators quickly located the suspect's vehicle,

which was the same vehicle from the previous night's shooting. It was determined the victims at the bus stop were OMBs and the suspects were PBs. This information was relayed to the Minneapolis P.D. who were still at the crime scene.

The suspect from the bus stop shooting was charged and convicted for the previous night's drive by shooting. This was completed by MGSF investigators. Then later in the year their testimony at a grand jury assisted convicting two gang members for first degree murder and a Crime Committed for the Benefit of a Gang for the bus stop homicide.

Homicide

The Brooklyn Park Police responded to a shooting this past summer. A PB gang member had been shot and killed while sitting in a car parked at the Park Center High School. The only information officers had was the suspect was called by a nickname of "Bhuto" and the suspect's vehicle was a tan Honda.

Within just a few hours after the murder Metro investigators were able to identify the suspect and provide a location where he was staying. Investigators kept working with informants, witnesses, and other gang members who had knowledge of the homicide. Because of their work and the intelligence system at the MGSF, investigators were able to identify the remaining gang members who were involved. Following the arrests of three OMB gang members, the actual shooter pled guilty to first-degree murder while committing a gang related drive by shooting. The other two were found guilty of lesser crimes related to the murder.

St. Paul Undercover Store Front

Metro investigators worked with the St. Paul Police and BCA on a three-month undercover storefront operation. The operation focused on the Frogtown and Summit University neighborhoods of St. Paul. This is considered a high crime area with a lot of organized gang activity.

The operation was a federally funded "Weed and Seed" crime prevention program. The operation involved fourteen officers who worked in an undercover fencing storefront. During the operation they purchased or confiscated eleven stolen vehicles, approximately 4 pounds of powder cocaine, 168 pounds of marijuana, 8 ounces of crack cocaine. They also recovered about $10,000 in computers, cell phones, and laptop computers as well as several guns.

Metro investigators, along with their active participation in the undercover project, also provided several guns and electronic equipment from their evidence locker to set up the storefront. Metro also provided three vehicles for undercover offices to use as well as over $4,000 of their state forfeiture money to pay for construction costs and leasing equipment for the operation.

As of the end of the year, 13 persons were charged by Ramsey County and 4 persons were charged federally. A vast majority were local gang members. More charges will be coming forward as more suspects are identified.

Rape / Prostitution of Juveniles

Again during the year 2003 Metro investigators continued to work on Asian gangs who were involved in the sexual assault and prostitution of young Hmong girls generally between the ages of 12 to 16 years of age. Investigators have concluded three separate major investigations during the year that would probably never have come to light had it not been for MGSF investigators who are so closely involved in the Hmong community and the Asian gangs that they keep information on. One of the major obstacles in this type of investigation obviously are the cultural mores in the Hmong community. It is very difficult to get the female victim to talk to the police because of the disgrace this brings on themselves and their families. The gang members are very aware of this situation and take full advantage of this.

* The first case started in the Mount Airy Housing Area in the City of St. Paul. A report was taken on a runaway who stated she was raped at an unknown location in Oakdale. Oakdale turned the case over to MGSF officers because it involved gangs and cross jurisdiction issues. Investigators soon learned several other young Hmong runaways had been forced into prostitution by a St. Paul Ruthless Crip Gangster gang member and his girlfriend.

After a successful investigation, the MGSF and St. Paul Police executed search warrants at an apartment used for the prostitution business. It was determined the gang members actually recruited runaways and then forced them into business. The two main suspects were charged each with counts of Promoting the Prostitution of a Minor. They both are facing 260 months in prison During the search warrants several males were identified as customers and arrest warrants for sexual assault have been filed.

* The next case started when Metro investigators were contacted by the River Falls, WI, Police regarding two runaways who had been in St. Paul for over a month and who had been forced into prostitution by TMC gang members. The juvenile females identified at least seven gang members who provided the girls with crystal meth and then arranged to have older Hmong males pay to have sex with them.

Because of the travel between states these persons were indicted federally. One of the gang members was already on probation in WI for Sexual Battery of a Child and was returned to prison for 15 years. If convicted of these current charges brought by the MGSF he will likely be sentenced for life.

The rest of the suspects were each indicted in Federal Court with up to eleven counts each. Some of these defendants are looking at 20 years in prison.

* For a large part of the year Metro investigators worked with St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Ramsey County law enforcement on a prostitution ring involving four 13-year old Hmong females. The girls were originally runaways who were befriended by AKP (Asian King Posse) gang members. The girls described the gang members as getting them hooked on crystal meth and then demanding payment for drugs. When the girls

could not pay the gang members for the drugs they were forced to have sex with older Hmong men to repay their debt. On a few occasions they were actually tied down while they were sexually assaulted.

Six males have been identified as well as the locations the sexual assaults took place. All have been charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 1st degree, Promoting the Prostitution of a Minor, and Crimes Committed for the Benefit of a Gang. Several of these gang members have already pled guilty and have been sentenced to up to 242 months in prison. Two brothers from Detroit, MI, who are both confirmed AKP/116 gang members have been charged and bail set at $100,000 each. They are still fugitives. They had previously been investigated in Detroit for transporting Hmong juveniles for the purposes of prostitution.

Northeast Region

Homicide / Drug Sales.

NE investigators were contacted by the Superior, Wisconsin P.D. following the homicide of a suspected Vice Lord gang member. Using this gathered intelligence on area gang members they were able to identify eight Gangster Disciple gang members from Duluth who were involved with the shooting. Four were arrested almost immediately. Then through the use of informants, Investigator Jenkins found the whereabouts of the main shooter who had been living with a female in Hibbing, Minnesota. A search warrant was issued and the suspect was arrested after entry was made into the house by St. Louis County and Hibbing P.D. entry teams.

Then investigators Jenkins and Stracek worked with St. Louis County Probation and family members to convince the three remaining suspects to turn themselves in. One unexpected result of this homicide investigation was the unplanned arrest of two persons for the sale of crack cocaine. Investigators developed information that the two had knowledge about the homicide, they were apparently witnesses. As a result of the information, the two were surveilled for a time and before they were brought in for questioning they were found to be selling crack and were arrested for that as well.

Homicide

MGSF investigators assisted the Duluth P.D. with the investigation of the Irwin Teitelbaum homicide investigation. Teitelbaum was an elderly paper delivery person who was beaten to death in the early morning as he was delivering papers. The suspect was a Native Mob street gang member who N/E investigators had information on. They were able to locate the suspect and provide testimony against the gang member who has been charged with this senseless beating death.

Homicide

Investigators assisted the Duluth Police Violent Crimes Unit investigating the shooting death of a five-year old innocent child. Six suspects, all Latin King gang members, went to the residence of a Gangster Disciple gang member with the intent of robbing him of his money and drugs. When the victim determined what was about to happen he slammed

the door closed on the suspects. One of the Latin Kings then fired a round into the apartment and struck a child killing him instantly.

Because of the intelligence held by the MGSF on gang members, investigators were able to locate the suspects and execute search warrants. Three handguns were recovered. One was the murder weapon. All suspects have been arrested. Three have already been convicted if 2nd degree murder. Two are awaiting trial.

Burglary Ring / Federal RICO Firearms Investigation
Over the past year N/E investigators have been involved in a collaborative investigation with the St. Louis, Carlton, and Douglas (WI) County's Sheriffs' Offices along with the Duluth P.D. The investigation started as a result of numerous home burglaries where firearms were taken. The four suspects are all Vice Lords or Black P Stone gang members. The gang members were trafficking in stolen firearms.

This coordinated effort between local law enforcement has actually coincided with and joined an ongoing federal RICO investigation involving two more suspected Vice Lord gang members involved in trafficking weapons.

Southeast Region
Assaults / Weapons Violations / Narcotics
As was reported in our 2002 report, the Southeast Region was assisting the BCA and Austin Police Department with a gang known as the "Peckerwoods". The Peckerwoods Gang was organized originally in the California prison system in the late 1980's and then emerged on the streets as a racist white power group. Members of the Peckerwoods were trafficking methamphetamine, marijuana and weapons into the Austin area. This was a very violent gang that recruited young people in the Austin area to assist them in their criminal activities. After police began to target their criminal activities, the Peckerwoods began to retaliate against local law enforcement by making threats to law enforcement officials and assistant county attorneys. Houses of deputies were vandalized with gang graffiti as were a number of marked squad cars.

The investigation involved identifying defendants in Minnesota and California, interviews of numerous witnesses, purchases of controlled substances, collection of data from hundreds of telephone calls made by suspects and the transportation of these calls. During the course of the investigation, racially motivated crimes were uncovered. Also, investigators uncovered information of the gang's use of torture as a method of intimidation, to collect drug debts and to maintain control of dealers and anyone else that might consider testifying against any of the gang members.

In 2003, the investigation was completed and six people were federally indicted. One Peckerwood was indicted for possession of a firearm. This person has three prior violent felonies, one involving an assault on a police officer and is facing a minimum mandatory of a fifteen-year sentence. The other five, two Peckerwoods from California and three from Minnesota were charged in a ten-count indictment involving conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, and

conspiracy to distribute marijuana and the distribution of marijuana. All five were convicted in federal court on every charge they were charged with. The two Peckerwooods from California were brought before the honorable Judge Robert Rosenbaum for sentencing in full shackles. Judge Rosenbaum stated during the sentencing that this was the first time in his career he had defendants come before him wearing full shackles. On the day of the sentencing one of the Peckerwoods was found in possession of a homemade handcuff key and razorblades. One of the other California Peckerwoods became defiant with the Judge and even spit on the floor while he was being sentenced. Judge Rosenbaum said that the California Peckerwoods terrorized meth users to collect debts and led many young people into drugs, people who will be lucky if they get their lives back. The minimum sentence Judge Rosenbaum could impose was 30 years, but he said he went beyond that because of "the level of depravity, the acts of personal violence and the overall violence with which this gang operated." Judge Rosenbaum sentenced the two California Peckerwoods to 40 years in prison.

The three Minnesota Peckerwoods, who cooperated with authorities during trial, received federal sentences of four, seven and eight years.

Homicide

It seems like Rochester was the hide out for Asian Boyz gang members from California. In one case the Southeast Region received information that there were three Asian Boyz gang members staying at a residence in Rochester. The information was that the three Asian Boyz were responsible for a homicide that occurred in the Santa Rosa area. Southeast investigators contacted the homicide unit in Santa Rosa, CA and explained to them the information they received from Rochester. The detective in Santa Rosa stated that the homicide sounded like one that occurred in a neighboring city called Rohnert Park, CA. Investigators contacted the detective investigating the homicide in Rohnert Park and learned that the information investigators received in Rochester matched the homicide he was investigating. Through photo lineups and more interviews in Rochester and California, investigators were able to confirm that these were in fact the Asian Boyz who were responsible for the homicide in Rohnert Park. Authorities issued arrest warrants on the three Asian Boyz. Southeast Region executed a search warrant at the residence the Asian Boyz were staying at and located all three suspects. All three Asian Boyz were arrested and one of them admitted to being the person who fired the shot that killed the victim.

While assisting Rohnert Park with their homicide the Southeast Region began communicating with the Santa Rosa, CA, Homicide Unit. Santa Rosa was working on a homicide and had information that their suspect was living in the Rochester area. Commander Moilanen was already familiar with their suspect because the suspect began causing problems with many of the gangs in Rochester as soon as he arrived. The suspect in this case was also an Asian Boyz gang member. Authorities were able to issue an arrest warrant on their suspect. Southeast Region executed a search warrant at the residence of the Asian Boyz gang member and promptly arrested him for homicide. The suspect admitted during his interview that he was the one who pulled the trigger and shot the victim.

Harassment Against Law Enforcement

During the past several years there has been an Anti-Government/Sovereign group that has been documented in Gang Net, that has been harassing law enforcement. This group does not believe in state or federal laws and has claimed through the Secretary of the State of Minnesota that they were expatriated from the United States. This group had been suing and placing liens on police officers, prosecutors and judges' property in southeastern MN. As you can imagine this placed great hardship on the officers, prosecutors and judges, especially when it came time for one of them to sell their home. The group would draw up simulated paperwork and file it through the assessor's office in a county in southeastern MN. Whenever a county learned that the paperwork was not legitimate the group would go through a different county assessors office. At a previous trial involving one of these members a pipe bomb was located in one of their vehicles parked outside the Goodhue County Courthouse. The subject in that case was sentenced to prison for felony possession of an explosive device.

In September of 2003 one of these members went to trial and was being charged with Aggravated Harassment and Simulating the Legal Process. This member was convicted by a jury and sentenced. This was the first time in a long time one of these members were charged with filing false paperwork and thanks to the hard work of Investigator Reich he was found guilty. Since this conviction, law enforcement in southeastern Minnesota has not seen any cases involving lawsuits or property liens placed by this group.

<u>Central Region</u>

Aggravated Assault Shooting

Early in 2003 investigators from the Central Region arrested two suspected Black P Stone gang members in connection with a shooting at a downtown St. Cloud bar. The shooting followed a fight inside the bar with a suspected Vice Lord gang member. Investigators worked with the Park Rapids Police Department to locate and arrest one of the suspects. This particular suspect was found to be in possession of a sawed-off shotgun at the time of his arrest. Investigators located the second suspect in the city of St. Cloud during the execution of a search warrant in connection with this shooting. Additional evidence to this shooting, including the pistol used by the suspects, was recovered by investigators in the city of Brainerd.

This investigation was a good example of the collaborative work done by MGSF officers and local law enforcement to combat the criminal activity caused by gangs in greater MN.

Robbery / Aggravated Assault

Investigators arrested four suspected Gangster Disciple gang members in connection with a variety of crimes including aggravated robbery, conspiracy to commit a second armed robbery, sale and possession of controlled substances, and theft of a motor vehicle.

The aggravated robbery involved the robbery of a gas station and the pistol whipping of the clerk. The conspiracy involved the robbery of a Taco Johns. During the investigation, the officers were able to work an undercover role and also purchased 1.5 ounces of cocaine and methamphetamine from these individuals. An additional 1.5 ounces was obtained with search warrants following their arrests.

Fugitive Arrests for Drug and Weapons Violations
In April of 2003, investigators arrested two Vice Lord gang members from Clarksdale, Mississippi on fugitive warrants for weapons and drug violations. The U.S. Marshall's Office in Clarksdale advised they received information these two individuals may be in the St. Cloud area and were wanted for various weapons violations including the use of a machine gun to further their drug trafficking activities. These individuals were also suspected in the shotgun shooting of a rival gang member in Mississippi and the shooting of a second individual during a robbery.

The local federal Marshalls are aware of the large influx of gang members into Central MN, in particular to the St. Cloud area. They are also aware of the gang member intelligence available to the MGSF investigators in the state. After Central investigators were contacted they began working with their network of informants and located both fugitives – one in St. Cloud and one in Waite Park. Both were arrested and turned over to the U.S. Marshalls.

Drug Sales
In mid 2003 Central investigators arrested 24 individuals for various controlled substance crimes. This sweep involved several agencies and culminated a several week investigation into the drug sales by gang members in the St. Cloud area. The employment of numerous confidential informants and undercover work was used to make the arrests. The persons arrested had various affiliations to gangs including Vice Lords, T-Mob, White Power, and Asian Crips.

Kidnapping / Drug Conspiracy
In November, Central investigators arrested three members of the Vatos Locos gang on charges of kidnapping and controlled substance crimes. Two victims had arranged for a drug sale between a third party and the Vatos Locos gang members. The Vatos Locos were allegedly robbed by the third party. In retaliation, the victims who had set up the sale were held in a trailer park in the town of Cold Spring for two days. During this time they were beaten and threatened with a gun. The Vatos Locos tattooed "property of Mexicans" and "VL" on one of the victims. The victims were later released after they agreed to sell drugs for the Vatos Locos and after a car and $2,000 was delivered to them as payment for the drugs lost in the robbery. All three subjects are charged in state court for kidnapping and false imprisonment and in federal court for drug crimes.

<u>Southwest Region</u>
Firearms and Narcotic Sales
In Worthington, a Strike Force investigator used an informant to purchase narcotics from a Texas Chicano Boy gang member. On the first purchase methamphetamine was made.

The TCB member also showed the informant a 22-caliber pistol. On a second purchase the informant purchased more methamphetamine and the 22-caliber pistol. The gun was entered in NCIC and it was found to be stolen out of New Ulm. A third transaction was set up to purchase methamphetamines, a handgun and an AK47 from the same TCB member. The TCB member sold methamphtamines, a 32-caliber revolver and marijuana. The gun was checked out but did not come back stolen. A fourth transaction was scheduled to sell the methamphetamines and a 9mm handgun. The TCB member did not have the gun but did sell the methamphetamines. A final purchase for ¼ pound of methamphetamines was set up but the transaction did not take place. Instead a search warrant was executed and two suspects were arrested.

Because these gang members were involved with traveling interstate during their drug trafficking and selling of firearms they were charged federally and convicted. The two are currently awaiting sentencing.

NOTE: In January of 2003 our investigation from Worthington was asked to assist the Texas State Police in identifying two males who were found dead in Texas. The two were known TCB (Texas Chicano Boys) gang members who are from Worthington, MN. Both victims were murdered execution style with shots to the back of their heads. This is another example that rural Minnesota is not immune to the violence caused by criminal activity of organized gang members.

Homicide

In Marshall, a former CREW gang member who was known to associate with the Native Gangster Disciples was murdered. Earlier in the year the suspect in this case and the victim had some disagreements regarding gang membership and damage was done to personal property of both parties. In April the victim and other members came into town where the suspect lived. Witnesses state the victim in this case was getting gang members pumped up to go in and beat up the suspect. The victim in this case and other males got into the apartment. The suspect along with other friends was sitting at the kitchen table playing cards. Words were exchanged between the suspect and the victim. A fight broke out between all parties and a knife was grabbed by the suspect and he stabbed the victim, the CREW gang member, in the heart one time. The victim collapsed and the other males that came with the victim fled the scene. Officers arrived and arrested the males who were fleeing. One male told officers that his brother was dead. When the officers entered the apartment the victim was lying behind the door. The suspect in this case stayed at the scene and he was arrested. The BCA , Marshall P.D. and S/W investigators worked on this case. At this time the trial is pending.

Homicide

In July the S/W investigators assisted the BCA and Redwood Falls P.D. in a homicide that happened in Redwood Falls, MN. The Marshall Office was called and was asked for assistance in identifying the gangs that were involved. One victim in this case was the brother of Frankie Parker who was murdered on the Lower Sioux reservation in 2002. At the time Frankie Parker was killed, he was second in command of the Native Mob gang in the state of MN. It was suggested this last homicide was the end result of an ongoing

conflict between Native Mob gang members and Native Gangster Disciples gang members. Three Native Mob gang members were actually shot and only one died. The suspects are three Native Gangster Disciples.

A Metro Region investigator also worked on this case. Steve Setzer, a Minneapolis officer assigned to the MGSF, is an expert on Native gangs. He testified at the Grand Jury and all three Native Gangster Disciples are now awaiting trial for the murder of a rival gang member.